NUMB. XI.

The GUARDIAN.

——Huc propius me,
Dum doceo Insanire omnes, vos ordine adite. Hor.

Tuesday, March 14. 1713.

THERE is an oblique way of Reproof, which takes off from the Sharpneſs of it; and an Addreſs in Flattery, which makes it agreeable though never ſo groſs: But of all Flatterers, the moſt skilful is he who can do what you like, without ſaying any thing which argues you do it for his Sake; the moſt winning Circumſtance in the World being the Conformity of Manners. I ſpeak of this as a Practice neceſſary in gaining People of Senſe, who are not yet given up to Self-Conceit; thoſe who are far gone in Admiration of themſelves need not be treated with ſo much Delicacy. The following Letter puts this Matter in a pleaſant and uncommon Light: The Author of it attacks this Vice with an Air of Compliance, and alarms us againſt it by exhorting us to it.

To the GUARDIAN.

SIR,

'AS you profeſs to encourage all thoſe who any way contribute to the Publick Good, I flatter my ſelf I may claim your Countenance and Protection. I am by Profeſſion a Mad Doctor, but of a peculiar Kind; not of thoſe whoſe Aim it is to remove Phrenzies, but one who makes it my Buſineſs to confer an agreeable Madneſs on my Fellow-Creatures, for their mutual Delight and Benefit. Since it is agreed by the Philoſophers, that Happineſs and Miſery conſiſt chiefly in the Imagination, nothing is more neceſſary to Mankind in general than this pleaſing Delirium, which renders every one ſatisfied with himſelf, and perſuades him that all others are equally ſo.

'I have for ſeveral Years, both at home and abroad, made this Science my particular Study, which I may venture to ſay I have improved in almoſt all the Courts of *Europe*, and have reduced it into ſo ſafe and eaſie a Method, as to practiſe it on both Sexes, of what Diſpoſition, Age or Quality ſoever, with Succeſs. What enables me to perform this great Work, is the Uſe of my *Diſcutiens Catholicon*, or the *Grand Elixir*, to ſupport the Spirits of Human Nature. This Remedy is of the moſt grateful Flavour in the World, and agrees with all Taſtes whatever. 'Tis delicate to the Senſes, delightful in the Operation, may be taken at all Hours without Confinement, and is as properly given at a Ball or Play-houſe as in a private Chamber. It reſtores and vivifies the moſt dejected Minds, corrects and extracts all that is painful in the Knowledge of a Man's Self. One Doſe of it will inſtantly diſperſe it ſelf through the whole Animal Syſtem, diſſipate the firſt Motions of Diſtruſt ſo as never to return, and ſo exhilerate the Brain, and rariſie the Gloom of Reflection, as to give the Patients a new Flow of Spirits, a Vivacity of Behaviour, and a pleaſing Dependance upon their own Capacities.

'Let a Perſon be never ſo far gone, I adviſe him not to deſpair; even though he has been troubled many Years with reſtleſs Reflections, which by long Neglect have hardened into ſettled Conſideration. Thoſe that have been ſtung with Satyr may here find a certain Antidote, which infallibly diſperſes all Remains of the Poiſon that has been left in the Underſtanding by bad Cures. It fortifies the Heart againſt the Rancour of Pamphlets, the Inveteracy of Epigrams, and the Mortification of Lampoons; as has been often experienced by ſeveral Perſons of both Sexes, during the Seaſons of *Tunbridge* and the *Bath*.

'I could, as farther Inſtances of my Succeſs, produce Certificates and Teſtimonials from the Favourites and Ghoſtly Fathers of the moſt eminent Princes of *Europe*, but ſhall content my ſelf with the Mention of a few Cures, which I have performed by this my *Grand Univerſal Reſtorative*, during the Practice of one Month only ſince I came to this City.

Cures in the Month of February, 1713.

'*George Spondee*, Eſq; Poet, and Inmate of the Pariſh of St. *Paul's Covent-Garden*, fell into violent